pennsylvania musician

magazine

Vol.42 #496 Feb 2025

JONAH WHALE

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8-Bad Sister 8pm-11pm
9-Line Dancing 6pm-9pm
10-Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm
11-Matt Jameson 6pm-8pm
12-Karaoke 6pm-9pm
13-Music Bingo 6:30pm-8:30pm
14-Date Night 6pm-8pm, Micro Maidens Show 8pm-11pm
15-Honeypump 8pm-11pm
17-Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm
19-Karaoke 6pm-9pm
20-Free Jukebox and Pool 6pm-9pm
21-Love Rocket acoustic 6pm-8pm, Mama's Horn 8pm-11pm
22-If By 5 8pm-11pm
23-Under 21 open mic 3pm-6pm
24-Trivia 6:30pm-8:30pm
26-Karaoke 6pm-9pm
27-Slade Heller unplugged 6pm-8pm
28-Kevin Nelson 6pm-8pm, Renegade Radio 8pm-11pm

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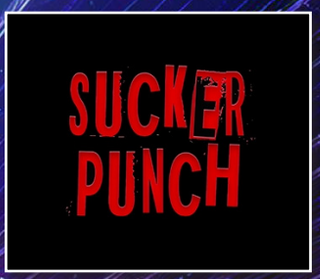

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Rachel Rocks.....Out & About

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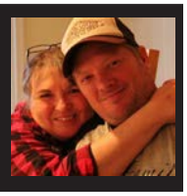
EDITOR RAMBLINGS
By Josh Noll



Hello, music lovers! Welcome back to another issue! It’s already February, and old man winter has been hitting the area with some freezing cold temps. Let’s hope the little groundhog comes out and declares an early spring because I’m tired of constantly putting wood on the fire.

First, some sad news from the PA Musician family: Jim Price’s older brother, Mike, unexpectedly passed away on January 13th at the age of 72 after dealing with some health issues. Mike was a big part of Jim’s musical journey in his early years, as well as his daily life, and he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to “The Professor” during these tough times. We know that the local music community will be there to support him in his healing process.

Now, onto the music! This month, we’re excited to welcome a new advertiser, “The Night Howls,” featuring Edward Krepps and Slade Heller. They’re a 2-piece acoustic duo with guitars and drums, adding some percussion to the mix. They recently got caught up in the Rachel Rocks “Funnel of Fun” while she was taking over Shermans Creek Inn’s New Year’s Day celebrations. The duo has a huge repertoire of all your favorite sing-along songs, designed to get the crowd involved and participating in the show. Hailing from Sunbury, they play all around the central PA area. You can also catch them performing as a trio with Ed’s other band, “Jaded Acoustic Duo.” And, Slade can also be found banging the beats for “Hank the Buffalo” and performing as a solo act at Shermans Creek Inn on the 27th as “Slade Heller Unplugged.” It’s amazing how well this community intertwines, with musicians forming side bands to help each other grow as artists and performers. To learn more about “The Night Howls,” check them out on Facebook. Venues looking for something to spice things up can find booking information on the next page.

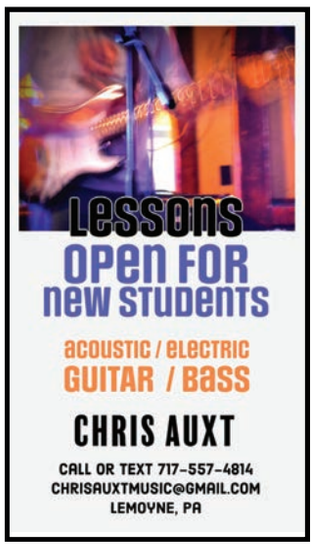
Kingfish and Friends are throwing another hootenanny at Tuscarora Records, located outside of Landisburg, on March 8th. The show will feature the music of “William Matheny & His Fabulous Band” along with “Dog in a Boy Suit.” These unique events, with limited seating, offer an up-close-and-personal experience at the beautiful Tuscarora Records. The evening also includes locally sourced snacks from People’s Provisions. If a down-home, good time with like-minded music fans is your style, this event is worth checking out. Tickets are $40 and available at kingfishandfriends.com. Get them early as seating is limited.

If you’re reading this hot off the press (and we hope you are!), head over to the West Shore Theater on Saturday, Feb 1st, for The Very Fine Gentleman and Friends Show. The night will feature original tunes and covers from amazing vocalists, including Brandon Yeagley of Crobot, Julie Schreiber, Eric Wirsing and Ffej Herb of Solar Federation, Amy Simpson of Groove Rebels, and more! The West Shore Theater is a great place to catch a show in a comfortable environment where you can truly immerse yourself in the performance. There are only a couple of tickets left at the time of this press, so get yours ASAP!

That’s it for this month! Don’t forget to vote for your favorite nominees in the annual CPMA’s and get your tickets now. Just a reminder: the event has moved to Lancaster this year, as Hershey Theatre is under construction. It’s a big night for local music that you won’t want to miss.

Take care, and if you’d like us to help promote your band or venue, feel free to call or text 717-636-4203 or send an email to joshnoll@pamusician.net. Later!

The Night Howls at Shermans Creek Inn
photo by Rachel Rocks



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2.2 Flinchy's 1-4 pm [Bestie Birthday Bash]
2.7 Horn Pub 8-11 pm [First Friday Bash]
2.8 Gary's Bar 8-11 pm
2.15 Doyle Hotel 7-10 pm [Valentine weekend Celebration]
2.21 Wolf Brewing 6:30-9:30 pm
2.22 Copper Pub 7-10 pm
2.28 Flinchy's 8-11 pm

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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

This is officially the first article of 2025! This month's article will start way back with New Year's Eve. The first month of the year was definitely a busy one, so I better get started!

New Year's Eve was a full day of festivities. It started at at Snapper's with an 80s themed party with Matt Jameson Live bringing the music! It was a total request party with tons of fun and shenanigans, all while raising money for United 4 Animals. Janet and the whole team at Snapper's really did a great job and put on one heck of a party!

After a quick nap at home to recharge, I went around and scooped up my friends and headed up to Shermans Creek Inn for Love Rocket and to ring in the New Year at midnight. Every song Love Rocket plays makes me want to dance! I was having so much fun dancing around, acting like an idiot, that quite a few people thought that I was drunk! Lucky for my friends, that was not the case and I was able to get everyone home safe and sound. Good thing I did because New Year's Day was a whole other day of fun at Shermans Creek Inn.

There's no better way to kick off the New Year then with music ALL DAY LONG!!! From 8am, all the way thru midnight the next day! I unfortunately overslept a bit from the shenanigans the night before, so we missed Corrina Rose, but we did make it in time to hear Mike Foltz. Cindy and I quickly had the bar singing and clapping, especially since the first song we heard was "What's Up" by the 4 Non Blondes! Which just so happens to be the same song we closed the night with when we sang karaoke! But before that we also got to hear Cody Ross Smith with his amazing country songs, covers and some really amazing originals. Then a new duo for me to see, The Night Howls, which is Ed Krepps on guitar and Slade Heller on drums. For only being two guys they really brought the party. By this point in the day we had quite the central music posse that showed up to join in the fun, and fun was definitely had by all. The last part of the day was karaoke! Cindy and I finally got our moment to shine on stage. Selfies were taken, it was a blast! But the stars of the show was definitely Chris Auxt and Derek Avalon and their rendition of "Teenage Dirtbag". Shermans Creek Inn does an amazing job at supporting live music and their community as much as possible. Every month their schedule is jam packed with entertainment, almost if not, every day of the week! Check out their schedule in this issue and get out there and support a venue that goes above and beyond to have the best entertainment in the area! I know we had a blast NYE and NYD at SCI!

Derek Henry

The first Friday of the year was a busy one! We sucked some more people into our funnel and Suzi and Jason Carst came along for the ride on a very strange night off for Jason. He finally got the chance to check out some of the other local musicians. We started our adventure at Wolf Brewing for Derek Henry and John Staz. They had a packed room, every table was full! Jason was amazed seeing Derek playing his right-handed guitar, left-handed, upside down and backwards, but yet still successful. When people first see Derek they can never understand the voodoo that he do! HA! Next we zoomed down to The Horn Pub for some fun with Hank the Buffalo. The Horn Pub was in full rowdy mode when we got there. It was awesome to see another packed venue. We squeezed in, sang, danced, and had a blast, hanging around with our friends! You can join Hank at the Horn Pub every first Friday! Last but not least, we zoomed up to Flinchy's for Matt Jameson Live's last set. Again, jam packed, but super fun! Everyone loves Matt at Flinchy's so he always has the place packed! Matt has recently added about 20 songs to his Song List, one of those is Taylor Swift's "Shake it Off"!

Megan at Ski Roundtop

The next night I had some new victims along for the fun! Holly and Matt! Matt finally had a night off, and what better thing to do than support live music. We headed down to Carlisle for Dave Gates at Hungry Run Distillery. What a cool little venue on Pomfret St. While we were there Megan and her hubby Matt showed up too! We had a great time singing along with Dave and requesting all of our favorites! Next we all zoomed down the street to Hook & Flask for the last set of Colin x2. Colin Alvarez was playing with his drummer, who is also named Colin. They were also taking requests and the party continued til well after the music was over!

continued on next page...

STEEL
TOUR SCHEDULE
2/1 XL LIVE w/Crazy Train, Harrisburg PA 8pm
3/1 Carroll Coon Club, Hampstead MD 8:30pm
3/29 Redman Tribe 84, Williamsport MD 8pm
4/26 Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Assoc. Fairfield PA 7pm
5/3 Vertical 4 Life Benefit Concert
Mechanicsburg Picnic Grounds PA 4pm
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Sun. 2/2-Wolf Brewing, Mechanicsburg, 11a-2pm
Wed. 2/5-OPEN MIC Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Fri. 2/7- Beerded Goat, Harrisburg, 6:30-9:30pm
Tues. 2/11-Shermans Creek Inn, 6-8pm
Wed. 2/12-OPEN MIC Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Fri. 2/14-Boomerang Bar & Grill, 5:30-8pm
Tues. 2/18-Falls Crab Shack, York Haven, 6-8pm
Wed. 2/19-OPEN MIC Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Fri. 2/21-Flinchy's, Camp Hill, 8-11pm
Sat. 2/22-Penn Draft House, Grantville, 6-10pm
Sun. 2/23-Vineyard and Brewery at Hershey, 2-5p
Wed. 2/26-OPEN MIC Blue Sky Tavern, 6:30-9pm
Fri. 2/28-Wolf Brewing, Mechanicsburg, 6:30-9:30

MATTJAMESONLIVE@GMAIL.COM

Out & About continued...

I went out of town for a bit, but when I got back the party was back in full force with a trip to ABC in Mechanicsburg for the 176ers Dueling Pianos! They had ABC jam packed, tables were sold out 2 weeks in advance! Luckily we squeezed in with Jen and Dave and we were still able to enjoy the show! I can't quite understand the madness of how these guys have so many requests and cash flying everywhere! It is constant music and constant fun all night long and they still can't get to all the requests. After their early show we still had some time to zoom over to Flinchy's for Dave Gates's last set. It was packed tight with a lot of other musicians and always fun times were had by all!

Hank The Buffalo

On a Saturday evening there was a big football game, but that didn't stop Flinchy's, they just bumped up Hank the Buffalo's show from 3-6pm in the middle of the afternoon, and the place was still packed! You literally could not move in the place. It was super awesome to see that Flinchy's found a way to still support music, and it paid off for them in the end because that place was super packed! After their early show we zoomed down the road to the Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel for Keith n' Sonya's Acoustic Roadshow. It's always cool seeing a husband and wife jammin' together because they have a different chemistry than other musicians. It's pretty awesome to see. We also sucked more victims into the funnel and had Cindy's brother Roger, and wife Michelle hanging with us too! The party is always merrier with more! Speaking of more, it was time for more music, so we zoomed over to Hollywood Casino for Dance Fever, and our friend Megan's birthday. After a few spins on the dance floor, we still had one more stop, back to the Horn Pub, but this time for Matt Jameson. This night they were being creative by having Matt play between commercials of the Steelers game, and after the game was over, it was time to party! I don't even know how late the party continued, but I was beat, and it was time to go home! What a fun, music-filled day!

I had a very rare Terrific Tuesday Trip down to Ski Roundtop for Megan and Dave at the Fireside Bar. It was awesome to see quite a few people from the music scene down there to support these two! It was a bummer to see that they close the slopes so early, back in the day I used to love sitting there watching the skiers fly down the mountain! Megan and Dave had the Fireside Bar rocking' keeping us all plenty warm. I really enjoyed Megan playing us a couple songs on her guitar after the show, since I missed that part during her actual show. She's been taking lessons from Chris Auxt at his new Guitar Lesson Studio in Lemoyne, and you can tell he's already teaching her so much!

Matt Jameson Live is now hosting Open Mic at Blue Sky Tavern in Lewisberry every Wednesday from 6:30-9:00pm. After everyone performs, there's also time for everyone to have an Open Jam, which can be tons of fun! I managed to make it down two Wednesdays this month. It's always cool to see musicians trying new things and sharing their talents with the crowd. Someone asked me about how does Matt get so many people to show up, and to me it's because of not only the opportunity to play music, but also the camaraderie that goes along with it. All the musicians are chatting about strings, pics, venues, songs, chord progressions, all of this musical banter. Sure you can look this stuff up online somewhere, but when you can discuss it amongst your peers and learn from each other, it's truly magical. Even for someone like me that just comes to watch it's still super cool to see and hear. It's such a safe space to just share your talent and have a good time! Plus as my travel season creeps in, it will be a great place and night in the middle of the week to go see a lot of my friends jam and have a good time!

After a great workout on a Thursday night at Kingdom Fit, I

continued on next page...

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Keith & Sonya at The Eagle Hotel

met up with Michelle for some dinner at Flinchy's, and we had a bonus night of music because the DJ cancelled, Shine Delphi picked up a last-minute gig. What an awesome surprise! He's such a talented musician. After listening to a set of his music I zoomed into the city to Sturges Speakeasy for The Exactlys! Dan Mowery is always out supporting so many people, I wanted to support him. His music wasn't "Exactly" as I thought it would be, but it was a blast! The "dance floor" was packed, and people were having a wild time on a Thursday. Since us NA drinkers have asked for hot tea, Rachel the bar tender, stepped it up for us, and also added Hot Apple Cider, and Hot Chocolate to their beverage menu! Sooo delicious! Once again another bar going above and beyond. It's so appreciated.

On a Friday I zoomed up to Liquid Noise in Marysville, to not only help them celebrate their 1st Anniversary under new ownership, but also hear the ever so talented Nate Myers and Pete Netznik! It's been way too long since I heard these guys. I sat with the Mayor and Queen of Funcannon,

continued on next page...

Shermans Creek Inn Gang

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2/7 Bill Cake
2/8 3 Below Band 8:30 - 11:30
2/14 Kevin & Dean
2/15 Northkill Creek Band 8:30 - 11:30
2/21 Barry Bohr
2/22 Tossed Salad 8:30 - 11:30
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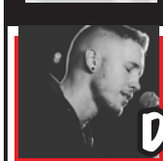

6-9pm
Saturday, February 1st
DEREK HENRY

6-9pm
Friday, February 7th
FRED NEBULA

6-9pm
Saturday, February 8th
JOE LERMAN

6-9pm
Friday, February 14th
BEKA JONES

6-9pm
Saturday, February 15th
NATE MYERS

6-9pm
Friday, February 21st
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Saturday, February 22nd
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6-9pm
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Love Rocket

Out & About continued...

Mike and Pam, and we had ourselves a beautiful night, listening to beautiful music!

To end the night I swung into XL Live for The Four Horsemen, a Celebration of Metallica! It felt amazing to bang my head and have a good time with some metal heads! Thanks again to DJ Hollywood (Rich Waddell) for inviting me up to join them in the balcony. Those seats are definitely worth the extra money, but you have to call in advance if you want to reserve one of the sections. I believe each section can have at least 10 guests, it's well worth it! The best part about seeing shows at XL is that really there's not a bad seat in the house. It really is a great place to see a band!

The last night of the month I zoomed back to Carlisle to hear Matt & Phil at Back Porch Brewing, and Megan and Dave right next door at Hook & Flask. It's pretty cool to be able to bop back and forth to such great musicians! Of course I wished it was Summer time so I could've just stood outside and enjoyed all of the music! Kudos to Back Porch for brewing their very own NA Beer, it's pretty yummy! I wish it had a cool name.. but I'm just happy that they created one!

Well that's the end of all of my live music shenanigans! Don't forget it's time to vote for your nominee for the Central PA Music Awards! The BIG show is going to be on March 3rd at the American Music Theatre in Lancaster, followed by an After Party at The Village. They are only about 15 minutes apart, so hopefully people will adjust to the new location and still have one heck of a party. The seats are going fast! If you want to come and celebrate our local scene, get your tickets now!

I will once again be traveling a lot this month. But I hope to catch as much live music as possible! When you see me, please say Hi! Thank you to everyone for reading this article and all of your continued support!! Get out there and Support Local Music.

NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! The New Year started off huge with a benefit show in Hagerstown, MD reuniting members of both Wrathchild America and Kix. On January 11th Ladders to Leaders, an organization that helps people on their road to recovery held a benefit concert and raised over $60,000 for the cause. The concert event included a special performance from bassist Brad Divens (Wrathchild America/Kix), drummer Shannon Larkin (Wrathchild America/Godsmack), guitarist Brian Forsythe (Kix) and guitarist Bob Pare (Kix). The group played a medley of classic cover songs as well as originals from Wrathchild America "Danger Us" and "No Deposit" and Kix "Atomic Bombs" and "Love Pollution." The event was a huge success and plans for next year are already in the works. Comedian Don Jamieson, best known as co-host of VH1's That Metal Show visited Harrisburg's Comedy Zone on January 3rd. Jamieson has performed at rock festivals such as Rock on the Rage, Monsters of Rock Cruise and Metallica's Orion Festival. He will return to Central PA on April 25th to perform at Lovedrafts with Canadian heavy metal band Anvil. Independant underground artist, MangoDog, played an incredible set at Philadelphia's MilkBoy on January 25th. MangoDog was born in Florida, raised in Trinidad, and currently resides in Brooklyn, NY. He describes his sound as post goth, dark indie, or dirty pop. All of his music is self produced, mixed and mastered. It was MangoDog's first appearance in Philadelphia in which he played amazing songs like "Brief Encounters," "What Happened to Us" and "Itchy Eye."

The Los Angeles wildfires have consumed the Nation with 24 lives lost, nearly 100,000 people under evacuation orders, 40,000 acres burned and more than 12,000 structures destroyed. The catastrophe is estimated to be an economic loss between $250 billion to $275 billion. However, numbers cannot articulate the magnitude of anguish as the disaster upends families and livelihoods. And now musicians are coming to aid with donations and numerous concert benefit shows. Billy Idol announced that $5 from every ticket sold at his Kia Forum show in the Los Angeles area will be donated to the American Red Cross to support Southern California Wildfire Relief, and he will also personally match the donation. Metallica has donated $500,000 to help Los Angeles fire relief efforts. Beyoncé'donated $2.5 million to the L.A. Fire Relief Fund and Fuerza Regida rented out an entire hotel to host families who have lost their homes. BottleRock Napa Valley is donating 50,000 and promoting FireAid, a benefit concert on January 30th at the Intuit Dome in Inglewood, California featuring Green Day, Justin Timberlake, Noah Kahan, No Doubt, Olivia Rodrigo, Stevie Wonder, Peso Pluma, Anderson .Paak, Dawes, Graham Nash, John Fogerty, The Black Crowes, Billie Eilish, Earth, Wind & Fire, Gracie Abrams, Jelly Roll, Joni Mitchell, Katy Perry, Lady Gaga, Lil Baby, P!NK, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Rod Stewart, Sting; Stephen Stills; Stevie Nicks; Tate McRae, Alanis Morissette, and performing together for the first time Dave Matthews and John Mayer. FireAid will be broadcast and streamed live on all major platforms.

Nine Inch Nails has announced the "Peel It Back" tour, which features dates in arenas across Europe (14 shows) and North America (23 shows) this summer and fall.The upcoming dates include Baltimore's CFG Bank Arena on August 26th and Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Center on August 27th. Nine Inch Nails last set out on tour in 2022. The band held out on the tour announcement due to the Los Angeles wildfires, "We are all watching the devastation that is unfolding in California and have paused our announcement while people try to deal with all that is happening." Billy Idol is joining forces with Joan Jett & the Blackhearts for a 30-date tour titled "It's a Nice Day To…Tour Again" which includes dates at Philadelphia's The Mann on August 16th and Columbia, MD Merriweather on August 22nd. Rock & Roll Hall of Fame icon Daryl Hall announced a 2025 tour with special guest Glenn Tillbrook of the band Squeeze. The handful of shows include 7 American dates including Warner Theatre in Erie, PA on April 1st followed by 5 dates in the UK. "I've toured with Glenn in the past, and I'm a fan of his songs, and it will be great to work with him again," Hall stated. Peter Frampton will head out on another run of tour dates this spring, dubbed the Let's Do It Again! tour. The newly christened Rock and Roll Hall of famer and legendary guitarist stated, "I am so thrilled to be able to come out and play again for you, it's been a spectacular year, looking forward to seeing everyone soon." Dates include: Wind Creek Event Center in Bethlehem, PA on April 3rd and Etess Arena in Atlantic City, NJ on April 5th. Shock-rocker, Marilyn Manson, begins a 12-date European tour next month followed by 18 North American dates including Wind Creek Event Center in Bethlehem, PA on May 7th, The Met in Philadelphia on May 9th and Pier Six Pavilion in Baltimore on May 13th.

Rock legends Lynyrd Skynyrd are embarking

Blast from the past...

Eric with Garth Hudson of The Band - Harrisburg Club Met 1992

Don Jamieson (VH1 That Metal Show) and Frank Phobia (Anthrophobia)

on an anniversary tour celebrating more than half a century since the release of their debut album in 1973.The upcoming arena tour includes Lynyrd Skynyrd's first UK dates since 2019. "This UK tour promises to be a celebration of Skynyrd's rich heritage and enduring appeal, fans can expect an unforgettable evening filled with classic hits, powerful performances, and a shared passion for the music that has defined a lifestyle for millions." Lynyrd Skynyrd will also play Atlantic City's Ocean Casino Resort on May 30th. Kenny Chesney is making history as the first country music artist to headline Sphere in Las Vegas, the singer announcing a residency at the renowned venue starting in May. He'll be performing 12 dates at the venue. Sphere has already hosted performances from U2, Dead & Company, Eagles, Phish and Anyma. Since first opening in September 2023, Sphere has garnered worldwide recognition for its state-of-the-art technology including 167,000 individual speakers and fully immersive, 160,000-square foot, 171 million pixel screen wrapped up, down and around the Sphere. Billy Joel and Rod Stewart are set to co-headline Yankee Stadium for one night on July 18th. Both artists are expected to perform songs from throughout their classic catalogs, with Joel also making history as the first musical act to headline both the original Yankee Stadium (for his June 22 and 23 shows in 1990) and the new Yankee Stadium. New York Yankees Senior Vice President stated, "We expect a magical evening with them in the Bronx. It is also particularly fitting that Billy Joel, who was born in the Bronx and is so iconically identified with New York, will become the first musical act to headline a show at both the original Yankee Stadium and the current Yankee Stadium."

Garth Hudson, keyboardist/multi-instrumentalist and last surviving founding member of The Band, passed away at the age of 87. On Jan 21, Jan Haust, Hudson's longtime friend and colleague confirmed his death saying he "died peacefully" and it "was a day of music and hand-holding." Born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, Hudson joined Levon Helm and the Hawks in 1961. Hudson's presence in The Band's sound was unmistakable and the main reason for Bob Dylan's collaboration with them recording albums Planet Waves and The Basement Tapes. Hudson once stated, "The wonderful thing in working with Dylan was the imagery in his lyrics, I was allowed to play with his words."

FEBRUARY CONCERTS: Steel and Crazy Train (The Ozzy Experience) - Harrisburg XL Live Feb 1. Gouge Away - Philadelphia First Unitarian Church Feb 3. Har Mar Superstar - Millersville Phantom Power Feb 14. The Swisher Sweets - Camp Hill Flinchy's Feb 15. Hexbelt - Lancaster Tellus 360 Feb 22.

MangoDog & Eric

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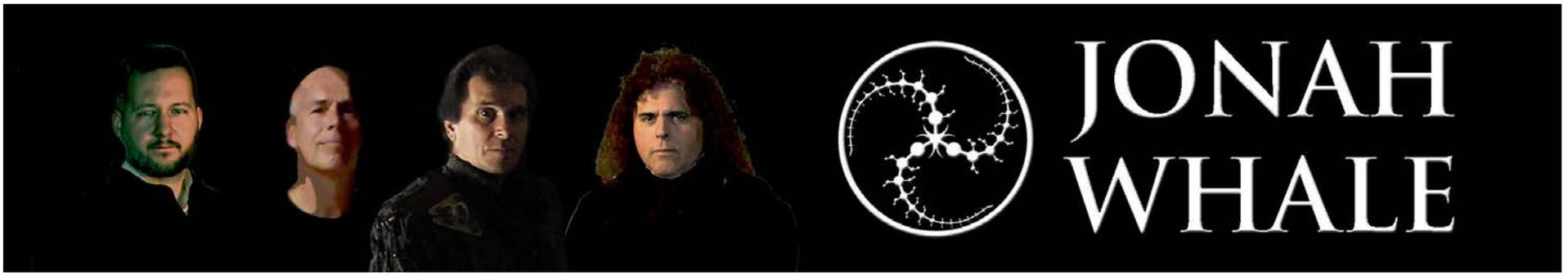

JONAH WHALE: AMERICAN MADE ROCK

By Jim Price

A Kansas native who these days calls Bloomsburg home, Jonah Whale's musical journey began at age 12 when he joined his first band as a lead singer. Inspired by rock music icons such as Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, The Who and Pink Floyd, he soon started learning to play instruments starting with drums, and took on guitar and keyboards as well. Soon after, he was writing and recording his own music on his father's old reel-to-reel analog tape deck.

Jonah Whale

Starting with his 1993 debut album "Dangerous Games," Jonah explored different flavors including classic and arena-styled hard rock, progressive rock, acoustic rock and more as he started to generate his musical identity. It was his 2017 album, "Mobius," where he realized that identity. According to Jonah, "The fifth album, called 'Mobius,' was the one where I thought I had a style of my own, I was comfortable and I was doing what I wanted to do." He continued to hone his style with radio airplay in mind on his sixth album, the appropriately-titled "VI," in 2020.

Released in October of last year, Jonah's seventh album, "American Made," distills qualities from his previous discography into a crisp, hard-hitting set. Sharp, infectious riffs, compelling melodies, gunshot drumbeats, rumbling bass, and Jonah's hearty and soaring voice converge into a potent 12-song package. The album features clear and concise rockers such as "Ride," the title track "American Made," "Dark Side of Love," "Walk on the Water" and "Straight From the Heart"; as well as milder numbers such as the first single "Rain" and the ethereal "I Can Fly," and the slower blues-geared song "Can Not Walk Away." As with all of his albums, "American Made" was self-written, performed, recorded, mixed, mastered and produced in his home studio. The album is available on all streaming platforms, as well as the website www.jonahwhale.com.

Jonah doesn't mince words about his objective with this latest album. "This new album…I want airplay honestly, that's my goal. I want to be able to sell tickets, I want to be able to be nationally recognized. So what I do now these days, I'm looking at airplay." He adds, "I like what I love and what I want to do, but you can still make that commercially accessible."

Charlie Angel

Although it wasn't an idea he was considering early on, Jonah assembled a band to perform his song creations live. He explained, "I put a band together a couple of years ago. For the first few albums I didn't have a band and I really never thought about it…I think it was the fourth album where some musicians I used to play with in a cover band, told me, 'We're gonna get a band together; we're gonna play some of your songs, we really like this album'…That kind of got it started."

Jonah's self-named band features himself on lead vocals, guitar, keyboards and percussion; along with Charlie Angel on bass and vocals, Matt Kilmer

Charlie Angel Jonah Whale Mark Ficken Matt Kilmer

the stage. According to Jonah, “Give them something to look at.”

For his creative process, Jonah has a disciplined approach to generating new music. He states, “I only write when I’m inspired, I don’t just sit down and write.” His process includes developing a collection of written song pieces, and records his rough song ideas onto cassette tapes. Once Jonah has reached 50 song ideas, he then filters and whittles those ideas down to 12 songs that will make his next album. He believes in the slow evolution of songs, and works on songs a little bit at a time until they feel complete.

For Jonah, each song creation and live show is a learning process, and he will continue to hone his creativity. More songs are in the works. And his goal remains clear: ***“I won’t be happy until I have a song that’s recognized nationally; that’s my target, that is my goal.”***

www.jonahwhale.com

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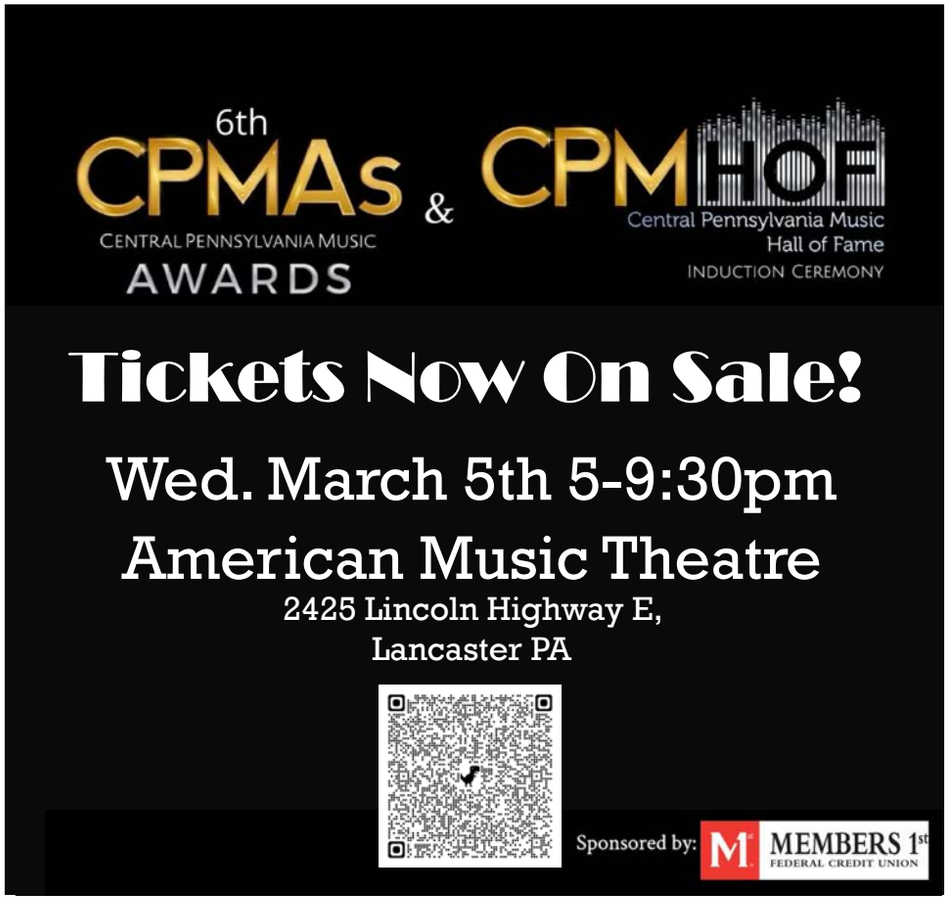
Mark Ficken

Matt Kilmer

on guitar and vocals, and Mark Ficken on drums and percussion. The group strives to make each performance a memorable concert experience for the audience. They encourage audience participation and engagement by performing their more anthemic song material such as “Raise Your Hands” and “Pump It Up,” and providing extra musical moments that audiences won’t hear on the records, such as special intros, bridges and endings to the live show. The group recently added high-end, pro-caliber lasers to the show.

Jonah Whale also believes in the visual experience of a show, and dressing the part. “People never say, ‘I’m going to hear a band,’” says Jonah. “They say, ‘I’m going to see a band.’” So the group believes in looking good on the stage, and dressing like they belong on



RIDER'S ON THE STORM

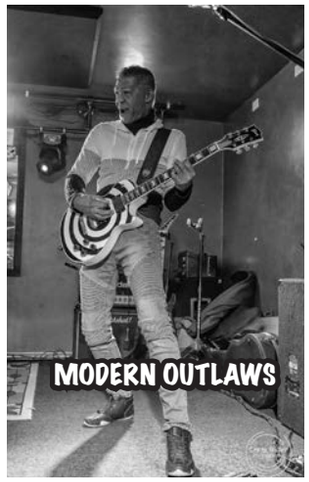
By Chris Rider

Holy crap January went by fast! Between work, house shopping, dealing with insurance stuff; Wendy and I still managed to find time to get out and enjoy our local music scene a handful of times at places that we love to hit each month, as well as a new (to me) venue. I have to say…it was a good month overall.

Starting off the month, we headed to Shermans Creek Inn to catch Brandon Barnhart's band: Modern Outlaws. Now, I've known Brandon for a while as The Piano Man and have caught his solo keyboard act a few times. I honestly thought that was his only instrument…I should know better by now LOL. Brandon plays keys AND guitar for the band, as well a second guitar player and drummer playing with him. The Trio covers a wide range of great tunes like American Band, Two Tickets To Paradise, Good Thing, Moving On, and a ton more which made for a great night.

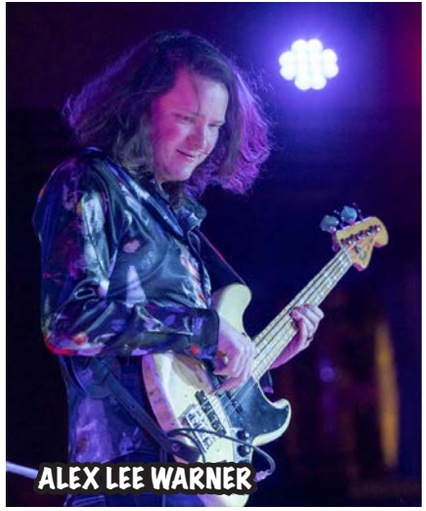
A lil while later, I made the trek up to Sunbury to Iron Vines Winery. I hadn't been there in a while and I was kind of jonesing for their Chateau de Francois…and they had a solo acoustic musician playing so it was a win-win. Ted Rivers came down from Bloomsburg and played a great mix of rock/pop/southern-rock/country tunes like Small Town, Hollywood Nights, Truckin', a slightly disco-ish version of Riders On The Storm, and a bunch more. It was great getting to spend some time talking to Ted and his wife prior to his set, as well as watching him play.

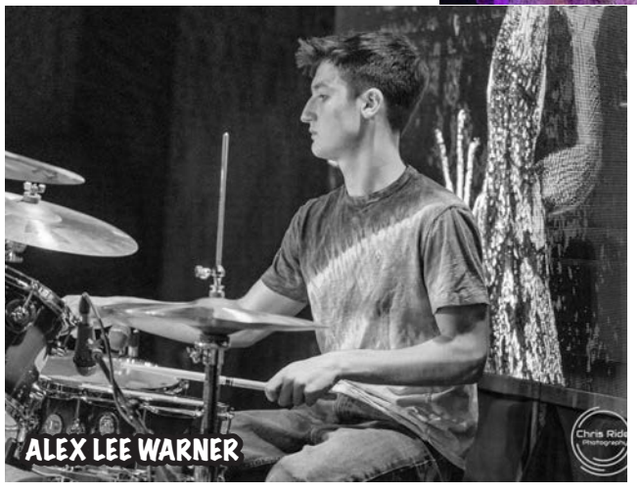
The following night, we actually managed to wrangle some of our kids together to head down to The Doyle Hotel in Duncannon for dinner and Hank The Buffalo. It was great seeing Stephen and Chris again. They had a great crowd there to see them, dancing and singing along that evening while the guys cranked out a ton of great tunes including one of my favs: Sitting On The Dock Of The Bay.



A week later, Wendy and I headed down to HMAC. It's been a while since we'd been down for a show so we were really looking forward to it. Opening up the evening on Stage On Herr was Cumberland Honey. I think it's been 2 years or maybe more since I've seen them and I was just floored at the amount of growth since then. With their beautiful mix of folk, soul, bluegrass sound combined with the incredible harmonies they produce, we both just truly enjoyed hearing them. Headlining the evening was a band that I've heard about quite a bit, but this was a first time getting to see them: Berks county based Steal Your Face. The guys are a high energy paying tribute to the amazing music of The Grateful Dead. Now I've covered a number of Grateful Dead tributes, so I was perhaps a little skeptical seeing only four members on stage to recreate the sound that Jerry and the boys produced so many years ago…but that skepticism died a quick death as the boys lit in to Alabama Getaway. The sound these guys create on that stage was amazing. I can definitely recommend checking them out next time they come through if you're even a little bit of a Grateful Dead fan, you surely won't be disappointed.

My last trip out for the month was at the invite of my buddy Alex Lee Warner, and it was to a venue that I hadn't been to yet: The Village Nightclub in The Lizard Lounge. I have to say, this place is cool! Lots of room for music fans, a spacious and well lit stage are all things that I love as a music fan and photographer. This afternoon was the return of the All Age Shows. I was informed by Rich that he had done these years ago and had a lot of musicians come through there that over the years have done quite well for themselves. Add to that, all the bands this day were youth bands, and I was really looking forward to this event. Kicking off the event was Philly based Butter Cake – a five piece band cranking out classic hits from Green Day, Van Halen, The Killers, and a bunch more. The vocals and musicianship were very impressive and I look forward to hearing more from them in the future. Next up was Adrenaline Crash, a Lancaster based group with a more mellow and soulful vibe to their song selection that I enjoyed. Headlining the evening was Alex Lee Warner and his band that included Liam Galiano on bass and Ethan Valentine on drums. Alex started off his set with my favorite song (so far LOL) that he covers: Steve Vai's "For The Love Of God". If you aren't familiar with this song, just stop reading and go listen to it. I'm not a guitar player, but I know a tough song to play when I hear it…and Alex does such a great job of playing this





song. Following that with a few more songs and even bringing his buddy Bobby Gentilo up to join the guys for a song or two. I love the idea of this show and look forward to Rich and The Village continuing this series!

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. I want to once again thank all the bands, venues, and everyone else involved in our incredible local music scene for everything they do. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see; make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me out & around and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did. Happy New Year!

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THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

First and foremost, I want to lead off this month's article by extending my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everybody who shared their sympathies, condolences and love in recent weeks, following the unexpected passing of my older brother Mike on January 13. Mike was 72, and had been dealing with several health issues in recent years. Needless to say, Mike was a major force in my life. As I would soon enter junior high school in the early 1970s, Mike started attending Penn State University (initially at Penn State Altoona), and transferred to University Park in 1972. As he moved into his dormitory, he purchased a J.C. Penney brand Penncrest stereo system with tuner, speakers and a record turntable. He also started buying record albums of some of the cutting-edge rock bands and artists of that era, names that would evolve into the iconic classic rock names of today – such as Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Neil Young, Santana, the Rolling Stones, the Moody Blues, Pink Floyd, and the group that would quickly snag this younger brother's attention – Emerson, Lake & Palmer. He would often commute home on the weekends, and bring his stereo and records with him. And as we shared the same bedroom, I would hear his records as he played them. I quickly got hooked on this thing called "rock and roll," and would often sneak and play his records on my small close-and-play record player when he was not around. This planted the initial seed in my life that would grow into my lifelong fascination with rock music and radio, and ultimately led me toward my career arc in radio.

Mike was also a musician in his younger days; playing clarinet and drums in school band situations, and later playing drums with the Tyrone-based Gardner Guards Drum & Bugle Corps. He also played accordion, and for a brief period played that instrument as a member of an early 1970s polka and variety band called the Memory Makers. A lifetime of memories of my brother will live on, and I will miss him.

My brother's passing and Old Man Winter's nuisance snows limited the amount of live music I was able to experience in recent weeks…One of the most rewarding parts of covering this area's music scene is when the music community comes together to support somebody in need. Last month's benefit show to help out Felix & the Hurricanes drummer Bob Watters provided a shining example of this. Bob underwent heart surgery during the recent holiday period, and won't be able to get back behind the drum kit until at least March (his doctors' permission pending). The proceeds from this benefit helped Bob and his family with medical expenses and to take care of him until he can again get back to drumming with the Hurricanes. Road conditions from the day's passing snowstorm were atrocious, but it didn't thwart friends, fans and community from showing up at Funky Claud's in Altoona; resulting in a full house bringing the love for Bob. Five bands provided the musical love through the afternoon, starting with Sweet Desire. These guys amaze me every time I see them, as they explore the frontiers of late 1960s/early 1970s blues, blues rock and psychedelic rock and make it their own. With guitarist Kenton Lewis, bassist Joshua Simpson and drummer Trey Boore churning up the rhythms and backdrops, singer Jordan McCaulley belted out the hearty, soulful voice on several early 70s classics along with some Sweet Desire original tunes. The group unleashed an extended full-jam version of their latest single, "The Dealer," as well as their number "Easy Woman, Loving Woman." They also broke out versions of Buddy Miles' "Them Changes," Buffalo Springfield's "Mr. Soul" and more. Sweet Desire delivered it all with their full youthful fire and passion, arousing the early crowd and setting the tone for a fun musical afternoon. Lauren & Joe then provided the acoustic flavors of the day, performing a wide variety of hits and classics. Lauren and Joe George opened with Sister Hazel's "All For You," and mixed things up with songs from Lady Gaga, Tom Petty, Fleetwood Mac, George Michael, Pat Benatar, Stone Temple Pilots, the Black Crowes and more. Lauren & Joe threw a few surprises into the mix, such as King Harvest's "Dancing in the Moonlight," their acoustic rendering of Heart's "Magic Man," and Joe singing lead on Jethro Tull's "Locomotive Breath." And they capped their set with Pink's "That's All I Know So Far." Lauren & Joe's set was laid-back and pleasant, and helped continue the happiness in the room. Next was Half Tempted, who reliably rocked the room with their sturdy brand of classic rock favorites. Lead singer and guitarist Ron Dalansky, guitarist and singer Jim Mincin, bassist Todd Batzel and drummer Dan McConnell brought the rock and triggered the day's first dance floor action with tunes from Thin Lizzy, Tom Petty, Grand Funk Railroad, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Kiss, Wild Cherry, Queen, the Knack, Mountain and more. After performing Black Sabbath's "Iron Man" earlier in their set, Joe George (who preceded Todd as the group's bass player) took over

continued on next page...

Joe Lybarger of Avenue of Kings

Matt Stoyanoff of Avenue of Kings

Autumn Shiffler of Autumn Rising

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The Professor continued....

bass duties on a glorious rendition of "War Pigs" to close out the set. The joy of the day escalated during Half Tempted's set when the man of the day – Bob – arrived with his wife Sandy. Musicians and friends proceeded to greet Bob and express their love through the rest of the event. Autumn Rising next took the stage.

Josh Simpson of Sweet Desire

Namesake Autumn Shiffler on vocals, guitarists and singers Scott Imler and Kirk Robison, bassist P.J. Kelly and drummer Shawn Gioiosa brought upbeat fun with their blend of classic rock and pop favorites. After leading off with Metallica's "Enter Sandman," Autumn Rising continued to trigger dance floor action with numbers from Joan Jett, Lit, the Cranberries, Toni Basil, Walk The Moon, AC/DC, Pat Benatar, Cheap Trick, Poison and more. Autumn again displayed her power and grit on the singing end; Kirk fronted the group on Joe Walsh's "Rocky Mountain Way" and Scott did likewise on AC/DC's "You Shook Me All Night Long." From behind the kit, Shawn credited Bob for being his drum hero. Autumn Rising delivered an energetic, fun set. Before the Hurricanes' set, Bob took the microphone to thank everybody for the support. Overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, Bob expressed his full appreciation to his family in the house (including his wife Sandy, whose mother passed away a few days ago), the show organizers, Funky Claud's proprietor Claudio (his lifelong friend since they were youngsters), all the musicians who took part, and the friends and community members who braved the roads to be a part of this day; it was a touching and

Ron Dalansky of Half Tempted

Jim Mincin (guest) Joe George & Ron Dalansky

heartfelt moment. Bob's bandmates in Felix & the Hurricanes took it from there...Joined by Donnie Rhodes behind the drum kit, Dave Villani on keys and Jim "Juga" McConnell on harmonica; lead Hurricane, singer and guitarist Felix Kos, and singer and bassist Pat McGinnis kicked off their set with "Louise," and immediately shifted into ZZ Top's "Balinese." The group continued with their original song favorite "Walking A Straight Line" and the Allman Brothers' "Midnight Rider," before slowing it down for the Stevie Ray Vaughan-popularized "Tin Pan Alley." After a punchy rendition of the James Gang's "Funk No. 49," Randy Servello – who played earlier in the afternoon at another nearby benefit event – stepped in behind the drum kit for the Allman Brothers' "One Way Out." The man of the day, Bob, then took the microphone to growl out the lead vocal on the day's final song, ZZ Top's "La Grange." The Hurricanes' musicianship was stunning throughout the set, and the smiles on their faces reflected the fun they had jamming with each other and doing their part to help out their band brother. Besides the music, 50/50's, a silent auction, a basket raffle and other giveaways helped raise money during the event. The end result of this afternoon of music, fun and community was $7,790 raised to help Bob and his family. It was wonderful to witness and experience this show of community – including a multitude of area musicians showing their support, numerous "Hurricaniacs," and lots of other friends, fans and community members as well. This was a very heartwarming day and a beautiful event.

Big hats off to all who helped to make this day happen – organizers Brian McConnell and Tom Seidel of Freelance Productions, who also made everything on the stage sound great; also Claudio, Carol and the staff of Funky Claud's for the venue, hospitality and great food, all the area businesses and donors who contributed to the day, all the musicians who donated their talents, and everybody who came out to participate and show their support. This day was what community is all about – unity, supporting and lifting each other up!

On to New Year's Eve…I closed out 2024 and welcomed 2025 at Altoona's Unter Uns Musical & Entertainment So-

continued on next page...

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D.D. & The Pub Crawlers

ciety, where DD & the Pub Crawlers provided the musical entertainment. Nine members strong this night – including a four-piece horn section – this group mixed up plentiful amounts of rock, soul, funk, swing, ska sounds and more. Lead singer Dana "DD" Martino, bassist Art Martino, guitarist Devin Sherman, drummer Rick Guyer and keyboardist Adam Baranik, plus the horn contingent of sax players Ryan McCracken and Anthony Martino, trombonist Jeff Woomer and trumpet player Adam Lingenfelter lit up the room and powered up the dance floor with soul classics from Sam & Dave, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder and James Brown; a ska version of Van Morrison's "Brown-Eyed Girl," brass rock classics from Chicago and Ides Of March, the swing merger of Louis Prima's "Jump Jive and Wail" into the Andrews Sisters' "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" (with Adam stepping out onto the dance floor to play his trumpet directly to the dancers) and more. After the stroke of midnight and entering the New Year, the Pub Crawlers reconvened the music with Blue Swede's "Hooked On A Feeling," and did songs from Reel Big Fish, Looking Glass, Boz Scaggs, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and more.

The next-to-last group I saw in 2024 was StoneMan as they performed at Pine Grove Hall in Pine Grove Mills in late December. Singer Shawn Inlow wasn't available this night, so keyboardist Steve Dixon handled most of the singing duties this night; joined by guitarist Nick Miller, keyboardist Rich Horton and drummer Mike Hughes. StoneMan performed a blend of originals from their 2023 debut CD "Heartbreaks" and their forthcoming follow-up album "Promises" (which has since been released). Some of their new songs included the Nick-fronted "Stealin' Minds," "The Bottom Rung," "Again" and an update of the rowdy and rollicking "I Like It" (which appeared on the first album). They also did numbers from the first album such as "What's Good For You," "Parkland," "I Guess You Should Know" and others. StoneMan also dazzled the audience with their eclectic mix of covers – including Elton John's "Honky Cat," Steely Dan's "Black Friday," their merger of The Who's "Getting the Tune" into the Beatles' "Come Together," and their strong renditions of three Pink Floyd classics – "Money" (with Steve doing all the spoken voice parts in the end), "Have A Cigar" and the finale version of "Pigs (3 of them)." In between their two sets,

Dave Villani with Pat McGinnis

Nick fired up a few songs from his Nick Miller Project, looping together backdrops live before the audience before singing and slinging guitar over them. One number he did was his version of Led Zeppelin's "When The Levee Breaks." StoneMan's performance was well-received by the audience.

Beyond New Year's Eve, the first two shows I saw in 2025 both happened at McGarvey's, and both involved Toy The Band. The first show featured Toy along with Hollidaysburg rap artist WXLverine and new area group Scavenger. Under way when I arrived, Toy sounded good as they mixed indie rock melody and aggression on original numbers and select covers. Some of their songs this night included their popular original song "Chemical Burns" and a blistering take on The Stooges' "I Wanna Be Your Dog." Four members strong, Altoona's Scavenger closed the night with their set of funk and jam-geared music. Scavenger laid down steady grooves, and had fun jamming their way from song to song. Among their song selection were renditions of "I Know You Rider" and Eric Clapton's "After Midnight."

Toy was also part of a triple-bill involving Walkney and Maul. Again under way when I arrived, Toy opened the night with their original songs and select covers. They again did their version of "I Wanna Be Your Dog," and also broke out a take on Nirvana's "Marigold." Next was Walkney, who introduced a number of new songs this night. Singer, guitarist and ringleader Derek Mrdjenovich fired up the crowd as he led the group – lead guitarist Jextin Pugh, bassist Nik Mik and drummer Dave Applas – on catchy, high-energy original songs. Walkney triggered dance floor action on several numbers, including their recent single, "Take Me." Maul then slammed the lid on the night with their brand of progressive-edged alternative hard rock. Singer Todd McKeone, guitarists Eric Prindible and Nate Nagle, bassist Tanner Thomas and Dave Applas again behind the drum kit again demonstrated their knack for captivating, detailed melodies and hard-hitting grooves. Maul's songs run the gamut from dual-tempo rockers to blues-tinged numbers, aggressive rock and more.

And McGarvey's hosted more musical theatre in late December, as 39 Tigers presented "The Full Monty" over two weekends. Gut-busting laughter was constant during this tale of six unemployed steelworkers in Buffalo, New York, who are low on cash. After seeing their wives get excited over the Chippendales touring male striptease act, the steelworkers devise a plan to form and earn money with their own striptease act, Hot Metal. The ensuing capers and performances were hilarious. The acting cast included several area musicians, including Michelle Barnes as "Pam Lukowski," Nick Bayer (The BSXpress) as "Tony Giordano," and Ryen Beam (formerly of The Nerves) as "Ethan Girard." The upper loft "pit" band included Annette Nagle on keys, Aaron Kenawell (The PennSoulvanians) on bass, Eric Wertz on drums and Randy "Jackson" Rutherford on guitar. 39 Tigers has several productions planned for later this year, including "The Play That Goes Wrong" in July, "Evil

Felix Kos w/
Jim "Juga" McConnell

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The Professor continued....

Travis Dick of Xorillion

Dead the Musical" in October, and "Monty Python's Edukational" in December.

Avenue Of Kings and Xorillion joined forces last month for a night of rocking fun at Funky Claud's. A good-sized crowd was already in place as Xorillion started the music; singer Travis Dick, guitarists Jordan Ferraro and Josh Michael, bassist Isaac Sell and drummer Alex Michael set the night's tone with rocking numbers from 3 Doors Down, Green Day, Talking Heads, Shinedown, Kings Of Leon, Linkin Park, Local H and more. The group also broke out their hard-rocking version of Paula Abdul's "Straight Up." Xorillion sounded sharp and powerful, and their set drew some folks onto the dance floor. Avenue Of Kings generated rock and metal excitement over the course of their two sets. Singer Matt Stoyanoff, guitarists Chris Silva and Joe Lybarger, bassist Beau Cabassa and drummer Randy Wilson proceeded to pack the dance floor with tunes from Poison, Grand Funk Railroad, Skid Row, Van Halen, Alice In the Chains, Ratt, Metallica, Motley Crue, Kiss, Bon Jovi, Firehouse, Bon Jovi, Judas Priest and many more. Xorillion's Travis Dick stepped in to sing lead on AC/DC's "Highway to Hell," heightening the dance floor activity. And Avenue Of Kings saved the hardest-hitting stuff until after the end of the night, sending the show home with songs from Megadeth, Metallica and Ozzy Ozbourne.

Eli Steward of Scavenger

News and Notes…Bedford-based folk singer, poet and author Coltt Winter Lepley will be releasing his self-titled debut album later this year…Western PA power trio The Blazing Suns issued their final album; the 14-song album, called "Volume II," had been completed at the time when the group decided to go their separate ways, so they decided to release it. Group members Steven Frye and Logan Yonkoske will be relocating to Austin, Texas in the near future.Rhythm guitarist Matt Woods has joined the roster of Johnstown-based alternative rock and punk cover band Twenty Three…The area music scene mourned the passing of Tony Dostal, who passed away on January 17 at age 36 after battling health issues. Tony was known on area stages as the "sample guru" and electronics specialist for Nanty Glo-based horror rockers One Adam 12 during their run on area stages from 2009 to 2019...We also report sad news with last month's passing of Dustin Pritts; Dustin was a singer and founding member of Somerset-based acoustic group The Feels.

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC!

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PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

JONAH WHALE – AMERICAN MADE (Adamsapple Records) Bloomsburg-based artist Jonah Whale has evolved his distinctive hard-rocking style over a three-decade, seven-album span. His seventh album, "American Made," finds Jonah honing that style and sound into a sharp edge as he crafts efficient melodies that are tight and to the point. Consistent with his past albums, Jonah exhibits what he does best – fusing catchy and intriguing hooks with hard-hitting, arena and modern rock-styled arrangements over the album's 12 tracks. The songs loosely adhere to prevalent themes of individualism, grabbing the bull by the horns and standing up for yourself. Those themes are evident in the driving album-opener "Ride," with Jonah singing about life's ride and moving forward without looking back. The rumbling title track "American Made" and the fast-moving "No One Needs a Hero" exude self-confidence, while the hard-hitting "Run Away" regards standing and facing the music when challenges arise. The album's first single, "Rain," strikes a milder, hopeful tone with its theme of shelter from the storm. While much of the album offers harder-driving rock, Jonah presents a dreamy and ethereal arrangement on "I Can Fly," and crafts a bluesier-rooted power ballad with "Can Not Walk Away." Singing and playing all instruments here, Jonah delivers on all counts. The rockers emphatically rock with chunky riffs, gunshot drumbeats and heated guitar solos, topped by Jonah's bold and soaring voice. His production is strong as well, including his use of vocal harmonies and layers to fill various nooks and crannies during each song as well as propel melodies toward their payoff choruses. The overall sound of this album is broad, booming and clean from start to finish. Jonah Whale's musical vision becomes even clearer with "American Made," which distills qualities from his previous works into a crisp, hard-edged set. The result is a consistent, catchy and invigorating listen that will make you want to up the volume. (The album can be obtained through the website www.jonahwhale.com, and accessed via multiple digital music services.)

INFUSED – FEEDBACK SADNESS (no label) Altoona-based alternative rock adventurers Infused continue their exploration into mood-evoking musical and lyrical soundscapes on their latest album, "Feedback Sadness." Featuring acoustic guitarist Shawn Huss and his daughter Adrianna sharing lead singing duties, Rod Skelley on acoustic, electric guitars and percussion, and Dave Carles playing bass; Infused crafts distinctive sonic tapestries that reflect emotions and feelings triggered by life experiences over the course of ten new song creations. Loved ones provide inspirations for several numbers; the dreamy album opener "Love Story" is Shawn's thoughtful devotion of love to his wife, Candie; while the Adrianna-fronted "Wake Tomorrow" was inspired by Rod's heartfelt emotions while watching his wife, Bonnie Jane, sleep. Also sung by Adrianna, the soaring and hopeful "Goodnight Little One" is Rod's lullaby to his grandchild. Dave's struggles with being separated from his family while serving in Iraq fuel the words of "Tears From My Eyes," displaying a slight Mediterranean tone; an instrumental version of this number appears later on the album. Relationship turmoil and uncertainty provide the bases for the harder-rocking "Closure" and "Oh My Love" with their respective mood swings. Spirituality and tranquility provide themes for the uplifting "Let It Rain" and "Shine Your Light," while the wonder of a solar eclipse informs the words of the album closer "The Room" with its slight Pink Floyd leanings. Infused effectively evokes moods and emotions through their deep melodies and expansive arrangements, frequently utilizing instrumental and vocal layering. Both Shawn's impassioned singing and Adrianna's soaring voice complement each other well and sell the intended sentiments of each song. Self-recorded and produced, this album sounds deep and full, with all components of Infused's presentation sounding balanced and crisp in the mix. Infused invests emotional capital into their alternative rock soundscapes on "Feedback Sadness," yielding a compelling, thoughtful album. (The album can be accessed through streaming services and obtained through the group's website, www.infusedmusicthe-band.com.)

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